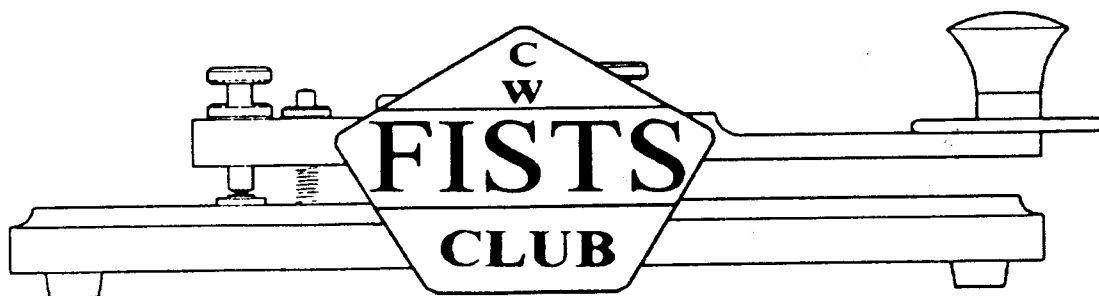


# The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the  
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

## HOW DO I...?

...**JOIN?** Membership is open to everyone interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions are \$15.00/year. Under 18 is \$10/year. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge. Only one newsletter will be mailed per household. to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440-0047.

...**RENEW?** Send \$15/year (\$10/year for under 18) to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Your renewal date is on your mailing label -- please look at it!! *Renewal notices are not mailed out individually.*

...**SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a FISTS brochure, send an email to Joe Pardue, at <w5os@arrl.net> with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are also on the FISTS Webpage.

... **ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene Kott, WO8E, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers 200 for \$2.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50; FISTS coffee mugs \$7.50; **FISTS Club T-Shirts M and L only**, \$8.00. Rubber stamps with FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5.00  
\*\*\*\*\*Pse make checks out to FISTS, these prices DO include Priority postage.\*\*\*\*\*

... **GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to cover printing/mailling costs to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are also available on the FISTS Web page.

...**Join the FISTS On-Line Email List?** For periodic Email updates on FISTS activities and information, send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Brian W8BL at his Email address: blafont@tir.com

...**GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Stan Reas, K4UK, runs the Buro. Send SASEs and FISTS member cards only (DX and NA) to him at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121.

...**SPONSOR A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...**APPLY FOR THE CENTURY AWARD?** Send a list of contacts (call, FISTS#, qth, date, band and power) used to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. Don't submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members for the regular Century Award. If you are applying for the UK issued awards, send your request to HQ in England (Bob Lowe, 12 Cavenham Grove, Darwin England BL14UA including \$5 US cash (no checks or money orders).

... **VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY?** Write to Margaret L. Putman, 502 Marguerite St., Elgin, IL 60123. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!!

...**GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken Kott, W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

...**GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need. Contact Joe, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

...**FIND THE WEB PAGE?** <http://www.FISTS.org>

...**SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at <KK4KF@LizardCop.com

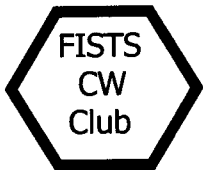
...**ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

...**ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. They are \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann, W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd., Medford, NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

...**IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEWFRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

The Keynote, official publication of FISTS CW Club, is published approximately 10 times a year by Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, suitability and space limitations.. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from the Keynote may be reprinted if credit is given to the original author.**



# The Key Note

The North American Memo Version by Nancy Kott WZ8C  
USA and DX member news and activities

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International  
Morse Preservation  
Society - Issue 4, 01

Slow Traffic Net:  
Tuesday and Thurs-  
day 9PM EST on  
3.682

Slow RagChewing  
Group: Wednesday at  
9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Con-  
trols needed to run  
the Century Net on  
Sunday afternoon  
on 14.058 MHz

Saturday QSO Groups:  
2000Z on 14.058 MHz  
and 7.058 MHz at  
2300Z.

Sunday Slow Speed  
Chat: 21.158 MHz at  
1700Z

30 Meter calling fre-  
quency: 10.118

Please keep watch on  
the Novice subbands  
and frequencies ending  
in .x58 -- but PLEASE  
spread out. There have  
been over 7000 FISTS  
numbers issued now, if  
we all try and chat on  
these frequencies all  
anyone will get is a lot  
of QRM. Please be  
courteous of nets and  
QSOs in progress.

Courtesy At All Times.

If you move please  
send your address  
change to WZ8C. It  
costs FISTS 60 cents  
for each undelivered  
Keynote due to  
address changes. This  
really adds up.

Issue 5 2001 FISTS CW Club

Hello FISTS. Boy,  
what a month! The  
Dayton Hamvention  
was a big success, as  
always. We had hun-  
dreds of FISTS stop  
by the booth to say  
hello. Thanks to all  
who spent some time  
with us helping to  
work the booth.  
WO8E and I appreci-  
ated the breaks.

Joining up with the  
QRPer during their  
Vendor Night for our  
Friday Get-Together  
worked out well. Now  
that I know what to  
expect, we can plan to  
have some more  
chairs and maybe the  
QRPer can put us in  
a corner where we can  
congregate more  
freely. But, the con-  
sensus is that it was  
nice to not have to  
choose between  
FISTS and the Vendor  
Night, so unless I  
have any other sug-  
gestions, I will plan  
on doing the same  
thing next year. I only  
wish there had been  
more time - I didn't  
get to check out any of  
the goodies the ven-  
dors had on display!

We've gotten a price  
break on the stickers.  
When we reordered, the  
price was lower, so, as  
always, we're passing  
the savings on to you.  
The price is now \$3.50  
for 500 stickers, includ-  
ing postage.

We still have some Me-  
dium and Large FISTS  
T-shirts available.  
These are first quality  
heavy cotton/poly blend  
shirts. You can outfit  
the wife and kids in a  
new summer wardrobe  
of FISTS blue!

For information on or-  
dering club supplies,  
check the How Do  
I...page included in ev-  
ery issue of the Key-  
note.

I'm sure this will make  
everyone happy - I fi-  
nally broke down and  
got some "renewal  
time" postcards. I  
haven't wanted to do  
this in the past because  
of the added expense,  
and the added work it  
makes for me. I will  
have to sort through the  
data base every month,  
and in addition to typ-  
ing "renewal time" or  
"last issue" on the file,

will have to make la-  
bels for each renewal  
due, paste it on the  
card, put a stamp on it  
(because postage is  
going up a penny, and  
these are prestamped at  
20 cents), and mail  
them. This might  
sound trivial, but we  
have an average of 200  
FISTS who are up for  
renewal each month.

It would help out a  
LOT if you would look  
at your mailing label  
and if you're due to re-  
new, please send it in  
so I don't have to send  
out a postcard to you.

The SUMMER  
SPRINT is the second  
Saturday in July. This  
newsletter should ar-  
rive about that time- a  
reminder about the  
Summer Sprint WAS  
on the back cover of  
the last (#4) issue. We  
have seasonal Sprints  
now, mark your calen-  
dar for the Fall Sprint  
in October, the Winter  
Sprint in February, and  
the Spring Sprint in  
May - all the second  
Saturday of the month,  
all 1700Z-2100Z.

73 88 Nancy WZ8C

## Welcome to the New FISTS

Due to lack of space, I'll print the list of new FISTS next month.

### Call Changes

#6777, Joe, KD0OK is now NA7MT  
#5277, Mike, K4YDK to K9YS  
#1019, Gerald, N4GD is now again K4UNW  
#4354, Keith, WB0YPO to W0KMG

### Calling Civil War Buffs

I need the help of the membership on a project I am working on. One of my other great passions is history and I do 1st person living history of the

"War Between the States" ("Civil War" for those with Yankee roots). I am attached to a HQ camp for a Brig. General and I would like to do an impression of a military telegraph operator. This seemed easy enough at first but, once I thought about it, I realised that I know nothing about the telegraphy of the 1860's. I must be as authentic as possible but, I am not sure what equipment is correct nor what rank was held by an operator. Does anyone know of any books on this subject or is anyone else doing the same thing? Are there any sources for reproduction telegraphy equipment? Any help would be greatly appreciated. I can be contacted by any of the following means:

Ken Warren  
2611 S. Highwood Rd  
McHenry IL 60050

### Congratulations

To Dennis, K6DF, our NAFAM (North American FISTS Awards Manager) on the marriage of his daughter Laura. To check out how spiffy Dennis looked for the occasion, go to <<http://members.home.net/k6df/ClassyRadio.html>>. You should dress like this for the Sprints, Dennis!

## Get Well Wishes

Perry Funderburg 3925, KB5EOU, fell May 25 and broke his right hip. He had surgery the next morning. He came through the surgery well, but has a difficult recovery ahead of him. Perry's 78th birthday was a few weeks ago, too. His son says it wasn't Perry's best day, but he is very thankful to be alive. Get well soon, Perry! You are in our thoughts.

Our condolences to John Shannon, K3WWP, on the passing of his mother, age 95.

### Silent Key

Sincere condolences also to Don Sherwood, VE5DXF,, on the passing of his wife Donna, VE7SIS, #4968.

Don writes: "Sorry to say Donna passed away on May 17, in my arms, at the little hospital in our home town. It all started in October 1998. She went an operation for the cervix and could not take the tumor. Doc said she'd last 6 mths or year. she was terminal, so she went through chemo, taxol, cisplatin, {taxol is from yew wood tree} Then she went through chemo clinical trials with drugs called NX211, with Cisplatin.. Only 5 people in Canada and a few in the States have had this drug. It did not help. so she said no more, but she beat them for two more years.

She was born in Windsor Ontario. We met in 1965, when she was only 16 yrs old. We got married in September 1967 when she was 18. Then in 1978 we moved to B.C. She was a strong little lady, she was very good on CW around 30 to 40 WPM. She studied the Bible and was R.C...She did it all: Climbed the mountain trails, liked fishing, and did some hunting, and started at the post office in Port Alice B.C. in 1978 I started in the pulp mill same time

We were married 34 yrs and together 36 yrs, I was by her side all the time ..love her very much Will miss her. The one and only mold is broken. It will be some time before I get on the air chasing dx,, becuz she liked DX and was a FISTS CW operator.. see you soon ..73 Don Sherwood.. VE7DXF FISTS 4967

# Just For Fun

A I A M B I C K E Y E R C O K L W P  
 V I B R O P L E X Y Z S P R I N T D  
 I S O B L I S C T P W C Q P B E O I  
 S M H E A T H K I T S W O C Y Z W A  
 T F I E L D D A Y X E X Q P X E B M  
 R X O P W C T Y I E O C B U L M N O  
 A I L S W T E C B L O W O M P S F N  
 I G Q P O W A N T E N N A O B I D D  
 G V E R T I C A L B T O E C P G S B  
 H D K L M N W A O C P W L R T Y Q T  
 T O X P W M O R S E C O D E W X S I  
 K E Y B U G W O C B N Y T O L B W O  
 E N V E L O P E S F O R B U R E A U  
 Y C E N T U R Y A W A R D O W P W Z  
 X O W P D X P E D I T I O N C Q O P  
 W O P Z P O C O D E B U D D Y W N T  
 W P X H O M E B R E W P W B Y T A L  
 T E N T E C W O O Q X U T Y L A W B

ANTENNA

BUG

CODE BUDDY

DXPEDITION

ENVELOPES FOR BUREAU

FIELD DAY

FISTS

HEATHKITS

HOMEBREW

IAMBIC KEYER

MORSE CODE

QRP

SPRINTS

STRAIGHT KEY

TENTEC

VERTICAL

VIBROPLEX

DIAMOND

\* Words may be across or up and down

A couple of issues ago we discussed DXing with QRP. Let's now discuss every day normal operation with QRP. The material in this column describes the procedures I have used to make over 30,000 QRP QSO's since 1993. A lot of this material was presented earlier in the second QRP column that I wrote for the Keynote.

Ninety-nine percent of the time, I don't do anything differently than I would if I were running high power thus much of what I say in this column applies to QRO operation also.

I don't sign /QRP at the end of my call, and never have except back in the 60's when it was common for members of the QRP Club (now QRP ARCI) to sign that way to let other hams know they were club members. I prefer that the other station not know I am QRP until after we establish contact. I believe the signal reports tend to be more honest that way.

I like to get many of my QSO's from CQ's. There's a certain thrill in not knowing who you are going to be contacting. I always call CQ in the following manner (except in contests):

"QRL?" (check freq for a few seconds - if it's clear, then again) "QRL?" (check freq for a few seconds - if it's clear, then) "CQ CQ CQ DE K3WWP K3WWP K" (check for an answer for 4-5 seconds, if no answer, then) "CQ CQ CQ DE K3WWP K3WWP K"

I continue the last two steps until I get an answer or give up. Sometimes I hear stations calling CQ a dozen times or even more before signing their call. Such endless CQ's only drive people away in search of someone else. I have great success with the "quick CQ, tune a few seconds for an answer, repeat if no answer" routine. I always ask QRL? twice before I start the CQ cycle to be absolutely sure the frequency is clear.

Once I get an answer to my CQ, I use the following as my first round in the QSO: "KB3BFQ DE K3WWP GM (GA,GE) TNX CALL UR 569 569 IN KITTANNING PA "KITTANNING PA NAME JOHN JOHN HW? AR KB3BFQ DE K3WWP K"

This takes care of the three most important items to be exchanged - RST QTH and NAME. Since they are so important, I send each one twice. I use no punctuation in my exchange as it is not really needed and makes for a crisp, quick first round that takes a little less than a minute to send depending on the code speed. Once we have completed the exchange of that basic info, then it is time to really get things started with some serious conversation. Now is the time to let the other station know you are using QRP.

When I am answering someone's CQ, I make an effort to exactly zero beat the station I am calling. If you use a transceiver, make sure the RIT, XIT, and any other gadget that offsets your transmit or receive frequency is turned off. When someone calls CQ, he almost always starts out listening exactly on his frequency for an answer. If you are there, you are more likely to catch his attention than someone who is off frequency a bit even if he is stronger. Also start to call the station immediately after he sends K. If you hesitate, he will start tuning around and may miss you. Make your answer crisp and quick: KB3BFQ DE K3WWP K3WWP AR.

If the operator hears me at all, he or she generally can get my call right if I send it twice. If the operator is not sure, then he or she can send QRZ?, and I will send it two more times. I do make an exception to this if I am calling someone who is quite weak. Then I may send my call three times. Or if I hear someone else calling at the same time I am, I sometimes drag out my reply to have my last call in the clear.

There are certain frequencies set aside as QRP calling frequencies. If you call around them, there is a somewhat better chance of getting an answer because other hams are expecting to hear weaker signals near these frequencies. Check my web site for a list of these frequencies.

It helps when using QRP to send as close to perfect code as possible. Many DXpedition stations have said it is often the weak signal with the perfect sounding CW that is easier to copy in a pileup. The strong station with sloppy code is harder to copy.

Use procedure signals correctly. Correct procedure makes it easier to copy someone. For example, you may not have been able to copy someone saying 73 to you, but if he correctly uses SK at the end of his transmission, you can be certain that it is his last transmission, and say 73 back to him.

Finally, keep in mind that no matter what you do, and how correctly you do it, there will be times you won't get an answer. Sometimes, an operator will just not bother answering a signal less than S9. Rude perhaps, but it happens. Also the station you are calling may be dealing with a high noise level or some QRM from stations you can't hear. Just forget those bad experiences and keep trying. You will succeed more often than you fail.

73 until next month. Visit [www.qsl.net/k3wwp/](http://www.qsl.net/k3wwp/) for much more info on QRP operating. - 30-

**“Lessons Learned from the 2001 Coast to Coast Event or How (not) to organize a FISTS Event” by KS7J, Casey Bahr**

Most of us know the basic tenet that we hope will guide major endeavors: KISS, or “Keep It Simple, Stupid”. From the first time that a few of our FISTS Clubs decided to put on our own small-time event, which was the 1998 West Coast Triple, to this latest and greatest 2001 Coast-to-Coast, that has always been one of our guiding principles (and if we forgot, Stan, K4UK, was always there to remind us, hi!). Well, perhaps we can be thankful that in trying to adhere to that guidance we did not have as many faux pas as we could have had this year.

I think it’s fair to say that all in all, it really was the finest of the two WCTs and two C2Cs that we’ve had. We had outstanding participation from nearly 30 clubs, over 1,500 QSOs logged, clubs on around the clock, many ops operating for the first-time in a contest-like event (and hooked forever), two submarine stations, a super-station from AK, DX participation, and about 50 superbly designed Coast-to-Coast certificates issued by N7GSU, Robin Faulkner.

An event like this gives you a great excuse to start brushing up on your code, getting the rig and antennas in shape, and a chance to just plain get excited about this wonderful hobby. There’s no way to know for sure, of course, but I also wonder just how many FISTS old and new we helped along the way to their first Century with 3 points per club, or even their FISTS WAS.

When the dust finally settles from one of these events, one starts to reflect on how it went and starts to think ahead to next year. We had a number of snafus and some pretty poor band conditions. I’d just like to share with you how I think things could have been a little different and pass on some hints, tips, and a few operating changes.

I found that the major effort in organizing the C2C this year was tracking down FISTS Clubs. A lot of them could be dug out of the roster, but a large percentage of them came from word-of-mouth or detective work by e-mail or web searches. DX Clubs were especially difficult to find, since outside of the UK there simply aren’t even a handful of clubs with FISTS numbers. In the UK, the difficulty arises that they don’t publish callbook information quite as publicly as we do here in the U.S. I did get some help from Geo, G3ZQS, and others in tracking down UK clubs, but by then it was too late for them to organize, or else too late to enroll them when they did not have an e-mail contact. A lot of this effort might have been made a lot easier had we energized ourselves earlier to begin publicizing the event late last year.

All of which leads to Tip #1: Start organizing in earnest at least 6 months in advance of the event.

Even if you apply the principle of KISS, you will find that an event as basically simple as the C2C is not easy to do all by your lonesome. Recruit, connive, beg, borrow or steal others to help. There are more details to take care of than you can ever imagine from the start when you told yourself that this was easily a spare-time

deal (HI!). As you get closer and closer to the event, many of those “details” become magnified in importance and you inevitably overlook the obvious. In this regard, not only having someone help organize things, but just to simply review your efforts is invaluable (and besides, if things go wrong you have a partner in crime to blame, hi!).

For instance, had I enlisted more than just casual reviewers of the rules I might have failed to fail on Tip #2: Try to avoid scheduling your event on major holidays, during other major CW events (especially QRP!), and get the times right.

It seemed as if I had created a triple whammy on the C2C during the last week or two when it finally dawned on me that not only had I overlooked the ARCI QRP Party, but half the C2C was to overlap with Easter, meaning many ops had serious family-time conflicts with air time (and I would not say they had their priorities backwards). To top it all off, the UTC date and times I had posted were in error, which translated into a start time 24 hours earlier than intended. These are all rather simple mistakes, but also simple to avoid with a little help from folks who could have reviewed things early on.

Of course, there are just some things that you can’t anticipate, leading to a corollary to Tip #2 (tongue planted firmly in cheek): 2a. Don’t plan your event during a major solar flare event!

Well, OK, you really can’t be held accountable for Acts of God, hi. The flare just prior to that C2C weekend, put a damper on things. I noticed it on the higher bands starting around 9 PM Saturday, PDT. As I recall, I was operating on 20 meters, doing all-right, when suddenly it was as if 20 meters met a black hole. Signals disappeared all across the band. But just as these sorts of things tend to have mostly negative effects on HF, I did notice some anomalies, such as when I was able to work Ralph, ZL2AOH on 10 meters a couple of hours later! With 10 watts no less.

So much for tips from the organizer’s point of view. Thanks to the incredible response I received from FISTS Northwest, K7FFF, members who filled in almost every available club operating time slot, I was free to search and pounce for clubs under my own call. At my disposal were my trusty K2, unplugged from its usual perch in the car, and a Johnson Ranger paired with a Collins 75A-4, supplied by my friend Tom Rousseau, K7PJT, at his beautiful home in Hood River, OR. As Tom and his XYL Sandi had only recently acquired this home, he had not yet been able to install his array of towers and yagis from the old QTH, so we operated with a humble multi-band dipole. Nonetheless, the operating was FB and the company (including Mark, K7MPH) could not have been better.

Actually being in the roles of both the “hunter” (individual operator) and the “fox” (a club operator), gave me new insights into the rules we had set up and has, along with comments from others, led to a few changes likely to be made for next year. First, as a club operator who was on later in the schedule, especially for a club that had a full slate of operators, I did notice that as time wore on the foxes seemed fewer and fewer. I don’t think this was due so much to band conditions, which actually seemed to have

improved by Sunday, but more to the fact that once a hunter had captured his prey (a club) he had no incentive to hunt it again. Especially, for K7FFF, which had for the first several hours, Larry, N1TX/KL7, operating a full legal limit station with 190' towers and stacked yagis from AK, most of the low-hanging fruit had been picked.

Thus, another revelation: 3. Add an incentive for more club QSOs by allowing credit for contacts on different bands.

I won't share with you the rather complex proposal yours truly came up with initially to implement the above suggestion (it was enough to make you turn in your key!), but what it boiled down to is that next year we will offer an additional incentive to work clubs on different bands, such as a special certificate endorsement. While I'm sure this will not effectively multiply our QSO count by the number of bands, it really should help liven things up for the clubs throughout the entire event time period.

Now, as a fox being hunted by individual stations, I also frequently ran into an awkward situation when I was called by another fox who was looking for C2C credit for their club. It seemed more often than not when this happened it was a club that as a hunter I had not captured yet. What to do? Should I make it a double-QSO (light on the foam, hi) and work my personal call, too? That seemed to me not the correct thing to do, since I was "on duty" for the club and it could potentially be confusing to the other operator, so I passed on that. As it turned out I lost a few clubs that I otherwise could have made, though I probably could have made that up were band conditions better overall. This situation though, leads to another rule change:

4. If a club operator works another club, he can count the contact for his or her own club as well as for their own personal log without having to use their personal call sign.

Well, why not? Were it not for the club operators donating their time, skills, and rigs, we wouldn't have much of a C2C to begin with. Clubs can take advantage of this rule to recruit operators as well, since they do not lose the advantage of reduced air time for their own call. And if nothing else, a rule such as this avoids the temptation to add their personal call to the QSO, which may cause confusion to both novice and veteran FISTS members.

So, what about the view of the hunter? Other than poor band conditions and several clubs only being able to operate limited hours, I really saw only one area to be concerned about. That is having to do with the necessary slow pace of the exchange. I know, I know, this is not at all intended to be a "contest" in the traditional sense of "599, thank you ma'am, 73 es GL". The founding principle of FISTS is Accuracy Transcends Speed and most of us are dyed-in-the-wool ragchewers at heart. So, a long-winded exchange is not unexpected, nor is it a root cause problem during such an event. However, especially during deteriorating band conditions, while waiting for that weak club or one you were sure you'd never hear again if you didn't get it now, the extended and somewhat random style exchange we designated did seem to drag on.

5. Standardize the format of the C2C exchange to make it more efficient without losing its "FISTSness".

All this really means is not only designate the elements of

the exchange, but also the sequence and a few tips on abbreviations. Trying to lose things like the name or state was unanimously rejected, but there are ways to make it a bit shorter and more regular, which helps keep things moving. Couple this with Tip #3 and you accommodate a higher number of expected QSOs as well. While I'm on this Tip, one addition which did not get included, was the inclusion of CC numbers as part of the exchange. Shortening the exchange somewhat just to add more on the end did seem to be working at cross-purposes. However, I see no reason why clubs, at their option, can not add the CC number if they so choose.

In contemplating these organizational and operating changes for next year, I'm happy to say that I took the lessons learned in Tip #2 and solicited a large number of C2C participants to review proposed changes. The vast majority really had one thing to say:

"We love the C2C just the way it is, its uniqueness, its simplicity. You've got a good thing going, don't mess with it too much".

This experience reminds me of how much you can do with so little and how I could not have possibly pulled this thing together (warts and all) without the wonderful support of FISTS and a number of key individuals (Perley, N1YUK; Robin, N7GSU; Stan, K4UK; Nancy, WZ8C; and many, many others too numerous to mention, but who I hope I have thanked along the way). I'm especially gratified at the enthusiasm, right up to the last-minute, of all the clubs that participated or who at least wished they could have participated this time. I know that next year, with an earlier start, we will be able to enlist even more clubs (DX too!), and, bands willing, we'll have another grand time calling CQ C2C. Hpe cu then es keep pounding brass! Vy 73, Casey, KS7J, FISTS nr 3648 Trustee, K7FFF, FISTS Northwest

Club Call (23 of 28 reporting) NR of C2C QSOs

K4FFF	222
W4FCR	198
W5DAR	166
K7FFF	106
W5YA	100
K1FFF	100
W9FFF	90
AE6TT	76
WA7YYY	63
K9IM	45
W8PIG	42
W4BPH	38
K6FFF	34
NJ6VT	33
K5TCC	32
W7DG	19
NK3ST	16
K0ND	14
KC5NWS	12
W8LKY	8
WW8TCM	7
W3DV	3
GO0IPX	1

Total

1525



# FISTS Spring Sprint, 2001

## Results

WOW, what can we say, the bands were just flat out bad for the Spring Sprint. But on the good side, the number of logs received was great. Glad you all turned out in spite of the condx.

Let us all hope for better bands for the Summer Sprint.

See you all on the air!

73

Dan, N8IE

FISTS #4985

AC5XK	Don	7634	TX	715
KB8KIK	Chuck	4031	OH	600
W9KMP	Ken	4626	IL	520
N4CAP	Jeff	6854	NC	495
WA9YYF	Ed	4921	IL	400
KB8PGW	John	4097	MI	210
KG9LZ	Tom	5769	IL	80
N1QLL	Gerald	7358	NC	60
WA0OTV	Robert	7565	MO	25
VA3IX	Ken	None	Ont	5
N7YS	Jim	6390	OR	5

### QRO Catagory

Call	Name	FISTS#	ST	Score
N4BP	Bob	7871	FL	18463
N1LN	Bruce	3525	TX	14385
K7LFY	Robert	7866	NE	13872
N2ED	Ed	2454	NJ	9856
WB0B	Larry	2916	IA	9135
W8EQA/7	Dan	2469	UT	8736
K4UK	Stan	2934	VA	5625
K8FLY	Bill	3032	MI	4925
KO4DI	Eileen	7508	NC	4675
KC0M	Larry	2528	MO	4440
N3RSD	Frank	2411	DE	3816
W4YE	Leland	3929	AR	2976
W3NGO	Dick	4016	PA	2700
N6QS	David	3594	CA	2052
KQ6NN	Thomas	5476	CA	2000
WA2VQV	Russell	3179	NJ	1875
K8CI	Richard	5270	OH	1575
WA3GNW	Bruce	7878	SC	1425
K6DF	Dennis	3076	CA	1391
N2EZY	David	7543	IN	1235
KS0M	Dick	3067	MO	1176
AI5T	Gary	7687	TX	1120
KD5JOM	Robert	7459	MS	935
WA6RND	John	3944	CA	935
W8GAC	John	4043	OH	880
N9LEC	James	3063	IL	800
K0MPC	Larry	3527	MO	770

### QRP Catagory

Call	Name	FISTS#	ST	Score
KG4IKQ	Jim	7590	NC	1464
WB8KQJ	Kenneth	1907	OH	975
W3MYW	George	7902	MD	715
KY7F	Doug	7311	WY	558

### CLUB Catagory

Call	Club Name	FISTS#	ST	Score
K4FFF	FISTS CW Club of Florida	7000	FL	18720
W5DAR	Deming Amateur Radio Club	7500	NM	7875
WA7YYY	Cowlitz FISTS Amateur Radio Club	1900	WA	6888
K4TW	South East Contest Club	2129	GA	6187
W4MVZ	Working Class Telegraphy Club of West Central Florida	7600	FL	3938
W4BPH	Bay Pines Vet Hospital Club	8075	FL	2990
W4FCR	Franklin County ARC	7007	VA	210

## SPRING SPRINT SOAPBOX

*Dick White, KS0M, MO FISTS #3067*

I am ready for the next Sprint! Propagation was really bad. The bands did open up for DX around 2130Z, after the Sprint was over. It was great to work Lionel, FISTS #731, G5LP and EA3EPH as my only DX. I was only able to put in two hours for the contest. My many "CQ's" went unanswered- all contacts were S&P except two.

*Stan Reas, K4UK, VA*

*Franklin County ARC, FISTS #2934*

Conditions here in Virginia were very poor. Nothing heard on 10 Meters and only two stations heard and worked on 15. I was able to pick up 6 new CC#'s toward my Platinum-500. Now only need 56 more - HI!

Once again I generally got realistic signal reports including one "339" from WA7YYY. Was surprised at how many members do NOT have CC#'s.

*Ken Panczyk, W9KMP, IL FISTS #4626*

Did not do as well as in my first two Sprints and did not seem to enjoy this one at all. However, July is another opportunity.

*Ed Curran, WA9YYF, IL FISTS #4921*

Band condx sure were poor but had fun in my first Sprint. Hope to do better next time.

*Bill Skofic, K8FLY, MI FISTS #3032*

Big job ahead Dan. I did much better than the Fall Sprint last year. Only about 1700 points.

I collected many more states than I thought I would, maybe next Sprint will do the Club Call W8FFF.

*Larry Schreiber, K0MPC, MO FISTS #3527*

I had fun but too many high power stations, too much QRM. Power should be no more than 100 watts. I hope the QRP boys did well.

*Tom Dolph, KG9LZ, IL FISTS #5769*

WOW conditions sure seemed to be bad here. The K index at 1500Z was 5, and K at 1800Z was 4. I didn't hear very many stations out there, and no DX. Signals on 15M were faint.

I would say summer conditions are getting near. Of course the bands haven't been too great here during the day for a couple of weeks anyway.

I enter these contests just for the fun of participating - I know full well that I am not competitive, but I like to see my score in the Keynote anyway. If I come in 60th place in the contest, that would be 60th out of 4000 active members - that's how I look at it.

*Robert Wilk, WA0OTV, MOFISTS #7565*

LOUSY BAND CONDX!

Life's too short to mess with a Ham Radio contest during this type of band condition. "QSY to the park!" (nice sunny day here)

*Michael V. Zbrozek, W4MVZ, FL FISTS #6773*

What a lousy score! Nobody on 10 and just a few guys on 15. On 20 the rapid qsb was using a vert and 100w is difficult. Should have washed the car or cut the lawn...Hi...

*Leland W. Smith Jr., W4YA, VA FISTS #3929*

My trip to Arkansas to see my om, W5KL gave me a chance to get on for "short" sprint!

73

Buddy was pleased to give KD5JOM his 50th state (AR) while mobile in AR.

*Bob Pattern, N4BP, FL FISTS #7871*

Have always entered these sprints with QRP in the past, but decided to run QRO this time. Good decisionsince condx very poor.

*John Underwood, W8GAC, OH FISTS #4043*

Called K2SB, Steve twice in 5 min. Was watching Golf while working contest SRI ABT that Steve!

*Larry Buchette, KC0M, MO FISTS #2528*

Tuff band conditions but I had a good time.

*Jeff Clouse, N4CAP, NC FISTS #6854*

This was my First Fist sprint- I had a great time. Maybe I'll get to operate For the Full 4 hours next time...

*Jim Elkins, KG4IKQ, NC FISTS #7590*

I club worked, extra points?

*Russell W. Young Jr., WA2VQV, NJ  
FISTS #3179*

Typical spring conditions-not good-but it was fun!

*Edward C. Hayes, N7CFA, WA FISTS #1402*  
Bands lousy, Winter sprint we had over 18,000 points! (using other club call W7DG)  
73, Ed for Wa7YYY Cowlit FISTS ARC

*Doug DeGase, KY7F, WY FISTS #7311*  
QRP was tough today!!

*Ed Wlodarski, N2ED, NJ FISTS #2454*  
I do not think we ever had conditions bad as today!

*Robert "Sparks" Tumlin, KD5JOM, MS  
FISTS #7459*  
This was fun! Got to get my act together for next sprint-  
Enclosed pix of "high" shack in aircraft hanger

*Dennis Franklin, K6DF, CA FISTS #3076*  
Band condx were not good. 10 meters was dead, and 15 was not too good either. 20 was the best band. Met some old friends, and pick up a few numbers. Looking forward to the Summer Sprint in July!

*David Larus, N6QS, CA FISTS #3594*  
I had hoped to do much better, but for whatever reason, I made a pretty poor showing compared to my score in the Winter, 2000 Sprint. Oh well, I still had a blast.  
Thanks for taking the time to process my entry. It's folks like you that make FISTS the best Amateur Radio club in the world. Keep up the FB work!

*Bob Forgey, K7LFY, OK FISTS #7866*  
52 new FISTS numbers! Finished my "Gold".  
Low activity from VE/DX.  
20M good, 10, 15 poor, 40 fair, little activity.  
Had a good time. Hoped to do better.

*Dick Ouiggle, W3NGO, PA FISTS #4016*  
Am surprised I didn't hear a single Michigan station during the Sprint.

*John Dawson, WA6RND, CA FISTS #3944*  
Not as good as the Winter Sprint. I didn't even hear N2ED. Will try again in the Summer Sprint.

*Kenneth Buser, WB8KQJ, OH FISTS #1907*  
Nice contest. Lots of band noise here. The CW puts both of my dogs to sleep. When it's over, they wake up & we go out for a walk.

*Dan Farewell, W8EQA, UT FISTS #2469*  
You know the conditions are bad when NY and FL is DX!

*Chuck Foster, KB8KIK, OH FISTS #4031*  
Would like to have worked more but between lousy band conditions and the "Job Jar" I ended up with this many. Enjoyed the sprint and look forward to summer sprint.

*Jim Warren, N7YS, OR FISTS #6390*  
Hrd very few stations & none had a sig strength of more than 1. Only made a single contact. Hope to do better next time.

*John Stark, KU4BT, FL FISTS #6215*  
Great time agn. First club entry. Did best i could with condx as they were.

*Bruce Meier, N1LN, TX FISTS #3525*  
Tried to better my winter score but the band conditions did not allow that. 10 mtrs was "dead" in Texas and 15 mtrs-not much better.  
Still had fun however.

**Congratulations to  
our Sprint Manager,  
Dan, N8IE, for being  
the top scorer in QRP,  
Great Lakes Division, phone  
during the ARRL Sweepstakes**

*And, thanks for all your work  
in putting together the Sprint score  
and soapbox for us, Dan!  
We appreciate it!*

# FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER Local News –

May 2001 12c Herbert Gardens- 186 The Terrace- Wellington 6001- New Zealand Tel: 0-4-473-0847

Fax 0-4-473-0848 e-mail: [zl2aoh@radiodx.com](mailto:zl2aoh@radiodx.com) or [zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz](mailto:zl2aoh@ihug.co.nz)

## Members' News

**ZL2TX-Nigel-9040** sent this e-mail in response to an item in members' news April 2001 FISTS Down Under. Lindsay VK2YN (ex VK5GZ) is a member of the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society Number 1730. He recently moved to Uki from VK5 and in January took out the new call sign VK2YN.

One of the main problems we have, is that 14050 kHz up is very congested, with the following frequencies being used as meeting places for the following:-

14052 kHz Royal Naval Amateur Radio Society, MARAC (German Naval Members) and INORC (Italian Naval members).  
14056 kHz Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society.  
14058 kHz FISTS and Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society.

All members of the above have their own membership numbers. In my case I am RNARS 0200, RSARS 2712 and FISTS 9040 so there is bound to be a bit of confusion at times. I hope this enlightens our FISTS members.

*Perhaps the last words on the call VK2YN. We received a letter from Mr J J Watt-Bright of Picton, NSW. "I am the son of VK2YN. My father passed away four years ago. You were speaking to a pirate using my father's call sign. Yours is the third card that I have received, including one from Italy and another from Japan; all in March 2001."*

*Obviously they have reallocated the call but the WIA had failed to notify the call book people that the original caller was a SK. A new call book CD is due out this month, so it will be interesting to see if it reflects the new holder of the call.*

*Nigel reports the correct details as: Lindsay Collins VK2YN, Smith Creek Road, Uki, NSW 2484, Australia. We will be writing to Mr Watt-Bright apprising him of the situation.*

In renewing his subscription, **ZL1DD-Barry-9029** sent a copy of a beautiful card that was printed in the Czech Republic. He says that he has been busy capering about putting the top guys on the tower. Fear is a great motivator!

The lovely cards ex OK land at \$600NZ for 3000 delivered and including artwork. Whole thing done on Internet and no requirement to pay until the cards arrive. So much for globalisation.

**ZL1MH-Mike-9038** says that he hopes to be on the bands a bit more during the winter, when there is not such a lot of work to do outside on his nine acres.

*It sounds a great place to grow an antenna farm!*

**ZL1CDX-Geordie-9048** wrote from Rotorua: Easter greetings from Sulphur City es and may your fist always be in good shape.

It's amazing checking back through my log(s) and the membership listings how many fists members I have worked.

I have a query regarding the "Century Award" and I was wondering if you could include contacts with fellow fists members prior to joining as I noticed the Americans allow this?

*I put this question by e-mail to G0FRL-Bob- 0390 the Awards Manager in the UK. He replied: "Yes, contacts with Fists members do count towards awards prior to a new member joining. The only thing not allowed is non members applying for awards."*

My other query is what sort of club goodies do you stock i.e. badges, Stickers etc and price?

*The only items available here are the membership list (by e-mail, on diskette or in printed form) FISTS logos (e-mail or diskette) and we can help with QSL card design incorporating logos. FISTS Name badges are available from The Sign Man NV5A e-mail <nv5a@aol.com> and there are other items referred to in Key Note each month.*

I thought I would send you a little profile of myself so here we go;

I'm 59 years young and with my wife Betty emigrated from North Shields in Tyneside to ZL in 1980. We have three kids and three grand kids.

My first exposure to Morse was in the Scouts and later from 1960 — 62 I spent 2years in The Parachute Regt and used to listen to the radio ops (Royal Sigs) but couldn't fathom it out.

In 1989 I sat and passed my amateur licence and 6months later did the Morse and promptly buried the key in the backyard. Some years later I was being "The Bigshot" on 20mtrs SSB when the guy I was working (5M67) asked me for a CW contact

to complete an award! Panic stations! I vowed from then on to become a "Real Ham" Hi and become proficient and have enjoyed it ever since, though no hotshot at it.

My station is Kenwood 450s, Heil mikes, and a copy/clone of a KLM KT34 four el. linear bade triband Yagi at 50ft that I built myself. The CW set up is: MFJ Super Memory Keyer and a MFJ Iambic paddle that seems to have a mind of its own. It took me longer to learn to use the paddle than it did to learn Morse!

I've always wanted to set up a computerised keyboard type contest station as I read that by looking and listen to fast Morse it helps to learn you to copy fast Morse in your head?

*Geordie works for the Order of St John and sent copies of an interesting QSL card for ZM1OSJ, a special even station set up to celebrate 900 years of the order. Yes, that's not an error, it's really 900 years.*

**ZL2MAD-Dusty-9051** is into gear already with several outgoing QSLs

*Thanks for the stamps Dusty – every little helps.*

## **FISTS Coast-to-Coast Event**

Several Down Under FISTS were heard working in this event. Contacts could be made on 20, 15 and 10 metres and it was sometimes difficult to find a clear frequency around the normal FISTS calling frequencies. It was a great opportunity to pick up points towards the FISTS awards. This was particularly so with a number of club stations on the air counting for three points. At least one member gained a Bronze certificate – **VK4EBP-John-9007**.

## **FISTS Down Under Net**

On the **first Monday of each month** the FISTS Down Under net will be held at **21:00 NZST, (09:00 UTC.)** on a frequency of **7.038 MHz**. On other Mondays during each month at the same time, there is an opportunity for members to make FISTS contacts knowing that it is likely there will be someone listening at that time.

There were only four on the net on 7 May. Is the timing unsuitable for most? Let's have your views. The next net is on 4 June 2001. That's the Queen's Birthday Holiday so Let's celebrate!

## **QNEWS**

FISTS got a plug in the e-mail version of QNEWS – "Official Radio news for WIA Australia and VK4". I have submitted an expanded article in the hope that it will also be published. QNEWS also has lots of information on a variety of amateur radio topics. You can subscribe to it by sending a message to [<QNEWS-WIA-subscribe@egroups.com>](mailto:<QNEWS-WIA-subscribe@egroups.com>)

## **Trading Post**

**ZL1CDX-Geordie-9048** has the following gear that may be of interest to members: contact as per FISTS list

Kenwood TS-430-S transceiver in good condition - \$950.00

Iambic Paddle (home-brew) Copy of a Vibroplex or Bencher - \$50.00

**ZL2AJ-Vai Parminter** has a Yaesu FT-1000 (the 200W model) for sale to a good home. P.O.A. Contact as per Callbook.

## **Editor's Activities**

I worked the IARU contest station **NU1AW** last year. Their QSL card received a few days ago included this interesting account of the origin of the station that I thought would interest members.

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## **The Story behind NU1AW**

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At first amateur stations had no prefixes indicating the country where they were located. After transoceanic amateur radio communication became commonplace in 1924 hams began using an informal system of prefixes (called "intermediates") at the time where "A" stood for Australia, "C" for Canada, "U" for United States, etc.

This worked fine at first, but did not provide enough options. January 1927 QST unveiled a new intermediate list - the work of the Executive Committee of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU). It was a two-letter system with the first letter indicating the continent ("A" for Asia, "N" for North America, "F" for Africa etc) and the second letter indicating the country. Thus, stations in the 48 United States used "NU".

The new system was soon overtaken by events. International regulations adopted later that same year included the initiation of a series of call signals such as K, N and W for the United States. US amateurs sported the voluntary NU prefix for just 20 months before it was replaced with W.

The founding president of the IARU was Hiram Percy Maxim **W1AW**, who held that office until his death in 1936. In 1996, the FCC issued to IARU the call sign **NU1AW**. It commemorates HPM and the IARU's creative if short-lived solution to the problem of international identification of stations.

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That's all folks. 73 de Ralph

# DX Version of The KeyNote

## OFFICES

**QSL Manager: M0AVW**  
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT  
**AWARDS MANAGER: G0FRL**  
12 Cavenham Grove, BOLTON, BL1 4UA  
**PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh**  
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY  
**CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO**  
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY  
E-Mail: fists01@aol.com

## International Morse Preservation Society

Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd.,  
DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

## NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJ5  
US 0100Z on 14058  
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)  
Net Control G3HZL  
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins  
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations  
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

**Please include your CALLSIGN on all correspondence.**

## GREETINGS

I am sat here at 1300z with the rig switched on and there is absolutely nothing at all on 40m and only a few squeaky EU stations on the HF bands. Boy wotta corker! Was it the conditions that caused an extremely poor turn out for the QRS contest? Whatever, there was almost nothing happening on 40 and 80m during the evening so it is sure getting me worried.

The camera recorded a small bright dot in the sky as Mir returned to earth in a belated blaze of glory. At least the Russians showed what could be done and the space station remained in orbit for over a decade past its sell-by date. With the on-going assembly of the international space station and possibly much more commuting twixt earth and this orbiting collection of bric-a-brac, it is likely that we will see an increase in amateur radioactivity but how nice it would be if some of it were to be in Morse.

From the May Radcom, I spotted the item concerning a Buckinghamshire jeweller who is marketing rings and bracelets using diamonds (brilliant and baguette cut) to convey a name or message in CW. Now I wonder where that idea came from? Brilliant it would seem represents a dit

whilst the baguette cut serves as a dah. You learn something new every day. Hi.

Talking of expensive items, the current trend seems to gravitate towards taking out a mortgage on your house for some of the latest transceivers on the market. Alright then - so I have a FT1000MP but this was purchased only after half a century of grafting for a living gave me the luxury of being able to afford it - but they do represent the thin end of a wedge which tends to reduce the cost of second hand run-of-the-mill stuff. Much of the older kit may not have all the bells and whistles but they usually constitute a very attractive proposition for CW operation. I know of more than one station who runs a home-brew QRP transmitter with an ageing Yaesu or Kenwood rig for receiving.

## DX SPONSORSHIP

There appears to be some mis-iunderstanding about this matter. Let me put the record straight. The club has always supported certain stations who, mainly because of their country's difficult financial climate, are unable to raise the necessary funds for subscriptions. Remember that in the case of many East European countries, the subs (insignificant to most) of £7.00 may represent an uncomfortably high percentage of a members' monthly earnings. The club also supports members on a 'fixed' income who find even our modest £5.00 subscription charges a strain.

We have a considerable number of such stations thus supported and I am sure you will appreciate that it would not be at all proper to identify them but the 'donations' proffered by generous members whilst very welcome, placed me in the position of being asked to play God. I do **not** relish this and am not prepared to single out a small number of recipients from the huge number of aspiring into the DX or EU category and are therefore not within the US scope of members. In either case, the appropriate subs are directed to HQ in the normal manner. Again, it would be inappropriate to identify them but suffice it to say that there are many.

## THE IN-BOX

**G8VG.** Chuffed at having just finished building a K2 and now on the bands usually running 5 Watts. Built nothing for about 50 years and then relied on the ex-Govt. surplus gear that used the big stuff like the 807 and the 813. He started the K2 project with trepidation but had very few problems. What is essential is patience and good eyesight, or a good magnifier, to read the markings on the tiny components. Also essential is good lighting. No test equipment required to line up the rig, it's all there. If anyone is interested full details can be obtained from - [www.elecrafter.com](http://www.elecrafter.com).

**G3ZPF.** David is looking for a good close-up image of a Codar AT5+PSU and a STAR SR200 RX to complete a line up of piccies for every rig he has had. Anyone oblige? Borrowed a HAC 'one valve swooshbox' and displayed to workmates receiving comments such as "it's not heavy enough to make a door stop" and "why didn't you use a transistor" - how we take things for granted these days! A QUESTION OF HISTORY: The Directory of Experimental Stations (ancestor of the callbook) was published by A W Gamage in July 1913, and a second edition followed in 1914. It is reproduced in its entirety from page 74 onwards in 'The Bright Sparks of Wireless'. There's no mention of the date that the first callbook appeared but must have been around that time when the 'London Wireless Club' re-named itself RSGB.

**M0CMQ.** Two members (M15MTC and G0SSG) have joined the improvers net. Was sad to hear about the probs for GM4HYF who was kind enough to send him practice tapes and hopes health situation soon improved.

**G0DJA.** "As a member of both FISTS and G-QRP, I can say that like you, I have not heard any problems with FISTS on the QRP frequencies. George Dobbs, whenever the subject comes up in the GQRP-L email reflector usually points out that the suggested QRP frequencies are not 'owned' by low power operators and that they are to be treated as centres of activity and not set-in-stone QRP only.

## CAPS

Chuck, M0AVW, has been in touch with a manufacturer with a view to making available personalised identity caps and the range is as below:

With Name and Callsign	£7.50
With FISTS logo	£8.50
With FISTS logo and Name	£9.00
With name, number and logo	£9.50

All prices include postage and packing within Europe though a modest additional figure will be required for DX orders.

Please order through Chuck - his address is on the banner.

## CLUB QSL CARDS

The new stock arrived this month. There are still a few sheets of the old stock left for those members who prefer them but the new colour printer is doing a fine job and feeding is positive and trouble free meaning that I can load stock and forget it. My previous attempts at producing a coloured card were frustrated because I had to stand for upwards of 30 minutes feeding one sheet at a time which was just not on the cards as it were. Hi.

## CALL CHANGE

DL4OBN is now DL1CQ. Tom says he was always unhappy about his three letter suffix and new legislation in DL has enabled him to conserve time and keying.

## C2C ACTIVITY

The US Coast-to-Coast event suffered sadly as far as we in Europe were concerned. Conditions on the HF bands were the absolute pits. Much time was spent here scouring 20 and 15m to be rewarded with only one club station. Uuugh!

## HOME BREW KEY

We have already seen a splendid collection of very expertly made keys but I thought you would appreciate this one. As you can see, the builder was PA0JBB and he seems to be something of a DIY fanatic (at least as far as plumbing is concerned). Photo courtesy PA9RZ.

## PA2DGR MONSTER!

As mentioned last month, PA2DGR has been doing a lot of work on the Unimog (1958) and for your interest, a photograph which had been received earlier has been scanned and is presented here. It is quite a beastly and I am sure that when Hans has this on the road, he will be given the utmost respect. Few indeed would risk an argument with it. Hi.

## EDGWARE SK EVNG

A reminder from G3SJE that this annual event is scheduled for Friday, 11 May. Activity anticipated from about 1900 but as usual, GB2SKE and GX3ASR will probably be active on 40m during the afternoon period. This is always a popular and well supported event and, as always, you will find lots of members to chase.

## LEARNERS

A letter in Nancy's NA MEMO concerns the dilemma facing those who are taking up CW with no previous experience. Absolutely no-one is using the mode at the lower speed required and here we are talking about 5 wpm.

As much as we sympathise, few stations would be prepared to slow down to this degree and it must be argued that self-tuition should bring the operator up to a more reasonable speed before venturing onto the bands.

If there is a failing in the 5wpm test speed it is that many such candidates expect to find extreme QRS activity on the bands but of course, they will have to search hard and long, neglecting a firm sked, and that even then, should the band they work on be active, they will be faced with the impatience of others who regard such activity as a 'road block'.

Nancy points out that the novice segment of 40m is largely bereft of traffic which makes it a likely candidate but even with a band which extends from 7 to 7.2MHz (as is the case in the US), it is questionable whether even this is the right way to go about it.

To a significant portion of established CW operators, the previous requirement of 12 wpm was a reasonable goal in respect of on-air activity and to most of us, QRS means this sort of speed and whilst most of them would gladly encourage learners on active bands, they would expect that

the new licensee should attain speeds in this (12-15wpm range) either by tape, or one-on-one practice on the 2m band or in other ways which does not demand the monopolising of valuable band space.

How many of you when driving are frustrated by learner vehicles travelling at 20 mph in a 30mph or greater zone. In the case of vehicles, there is generally nowhere else to attain the needed skills and the experienced driver is expected to take this into account and show patience. In the case of CW and the amateur bands however, there is space for the learner to achieve the needed skills 'off-road' as it were. Is there therefore a case for discouraging CW activity below (say) 12wpm? With unlimited band space, the question would be unnecessary but with more and more "cars" finding their way onto our already over-used roads, should a minimum standard of experience be expected?

All this may seem contentious of course and your point of view would be welcome.

## BROADCAST

WA9XHN runs a RTTY broadcast station (apparently with the approval of the FCC) on 6994 Looking at this, Rich, WA6KNW, says:

*"Well, I'm considering doing the same type of operation only totally in CW. I've been in contact with George about this and will in most likely utilize the same frequencies at different times. Of course I'll have to get all the paper work and licensing done with the FCC for an experimental station.*

*I have been gathering equipment (1KW) and will try to have everything operational and in working order BEFORE I make application to the FCC. I'm planning on a vertical that will be a quarter-wave long at 6994 KHZ. It will be on the roof of an industrial building approximately 25ft AGL with 32 50ft radials.*

*My intention is to have a call up/marker typical of the old time commercial coastal stations and also military type Blind Transmission Broadcasts (BTB). I want to use manual (J-38) and automatic transmission (Fredricks 660B) to do news like the RTTY station and acknowledge listeners reports over the air. I could also do some*



*CW runs for code proficiency like the old ARRL runs.*

*Between work and real life obligations I don't expect to make it fully happen until next fall sometime. I would like to get some input on how this would be perceived/received by real CW hounds".*

The above I suspect is directed more towards the US than here in Europe since there will be few occasions when the 40m signals will be audible but speaking personally, I hope he manages to get this off the ground. Located on the proposed QRG, the broadcast will not interfere with normal CW activity and will have the added attraction of serving as a band-edge marker. Some of you may remember that a small group of amateurs (myself included) argued that there should be recognised narrow band data transmissions located at band edges and also perhaps at points which mark the IARU recommended division between modes to serve as real-time signposts. Your comments would be welcome.

### **MX5IPX**

*Dear Geo,*

*I don't know if you have been following events on the G-QRP newsgroup, but I have been 'running' the Very Slow CW net for two weeks now, and have had ONE ten minute QSO despite publicising it ad nauseum and calling until I was blue in the face.*

*I think I will 'go with the flow' and just enjoy morse for myself, so sadly I will therefore not be running any more sessions.*

*I have received the validation document for MX5IPX/P, but no longer have any real enthusiasm for it. As it was effectively paid for by the club, I regard it as club property, so let me know if anyone else would be interested in taking it over, and I will arrange for its transfer.*

Well, I'm not sure if this answers the question posed previously about extreme QRS transmissions but certainly, MX5IPX could be made portable. It would be nice to see it activated from GM, GI or the Channel Islands where it would offer a very attractive prefix. LMK if you are interested and we'll work something out.

**G4PDJ.** I have now stuffed the echo chamber in the base of my Kent 'door-knocker' solid with plasticine, and it's even nicer now. It makes a little metallic 'clack' instead of a woody 'knock'. **M0ANL.** Andy was also having some grief with his Kent but found a piece of .75" slate (ex billiard table) which he used to replace the original. Says the slate drilled and countersank no sweat. **G4USW.** Barrow celebrated 100 yrs of the submarine (yes and I think there was some 300 of 'em in total - or was it 600) and a special event station GB100SM will be activated 5 thru 30 May inclusive on hf cw and ssb on FISTS, RNARS, FOC (with ivan G3IZD) and other freqs that take our fancy. **G3OEP.** Sends a copy of a very nice thank-you letter from the 9th. Maidenhead Brownies for an enjoyable 'thinking day on the air' to **G3UXY.** Points out that he will be running one of his 'QRP besides the seaside' meetings at the United Reformed Church. All members are welcome to attend and the venue is Back Chapel Lane, Gorleston on Sat, 22 Sept at 1400. **G3WP.** Feel sure that Jack's problem is shared. With sickening regularity, whenever he gets on the bands for a bit of a natter, the doorbell rings. It is usually a social worker checking up on Joan but on the few occasions when he has been left in peace, FISTS are found on 15 and 10m. The QRM you experience on 28.058 could well be a CBer Jack. There's still a lot of 'em who regard 27MHz as their own and they think nothing of migrating up to the CW end of 10m. **G4BWJ** Barry recounts that he lost his wife last August after the discovery of ovarian cancer which had gone beyond the point of treatment. Pam was subsequently placed in a hospice and, heavily sedated, she slipped away whilst Barry was holding her hand. He gains strength from the kind wishes of folks he had never met. **G0SDA.** Colin has a word of thanks to Bob for the letter of encouragement which accompanied his CC award. Now then Colin... you are privileged. On the few occasions we eyeball these days, I usually end up paying for the beer! **G3EFY.** Our Tom is walking around these days with 8 inches of stainless steel in his leg and a glorified ball bearing where his hip used to be.

With the winter we have just been through Tom, it is a good thing otherwise they may have been treating your prosthesis for rust! **G0VYR**. Norman has recently returned from a spell down under. Didn't take a rig but made an SSB QSO from ZL3AO who, unhappily, did not possess a key! Nice friendly people these Kiwis he says. Did ya hear that Ralph? **PA9RZ**. Roberts main interest is QRP these days and as of last month, he has 62 CC points to play with but, better than all is his QRP Masters with 94 DXCC.

## WATCH THOSE ANT SWITCHES!

A salutary lesson here from Alan, **G0GWD** who first returned his FT920 after experiencing missing dots with the in-built keyer. On return, the rig developed another problem and he was obliged to raise cash to send it to Castle Electronics for 'repair'. He was called on the phone shortly after and told that the rig was behaving perfectly normally, tuning up on all bands except that the antenna change-over switch (chose A or B) was defaulting to antenna B on certain bands. Nice to find a kindred soul because my FT1000MP went back to Martin Lynch shortly after receipt with the same problem.. would not tune up on 15 or 10m. They must have been using dedicated antennas for the bands in question because they also took the trouble to ring me and ask what the problem was..... the rig was behaving perfectly normally. However, I was not given the details and on its return, I fired up again on 15m with the same old result - zilch! My hand was on the phone ready ring them with an exocet but it was then that I noticed the ant indicator said "B" when it should have been "A". That is the trouble with these modern gadgets - they have memory and will default to all previously used settings for each band. You need to go through all bands before you do anything else and select the antenna you need. Simple ain't it?

## THE AGM

We had a magnificent quorum of four. Still, it was sufficient and after the usual the necessary bits - minutes of previous meeting and any business arising plus "where the blazes is my pen?"

the financial report was read and accepted per **G0FRL** and **G4XHZ**. In the absence of **G4PSE** and an apology from **G4MZS**, Frank (**G4XHZ**) was asked to accept the office of Chairman.

This was possibly one of the shortest AGMs yet, occupying all of forty minutes but we returned **G4YLB** as vice Chairman and **G8HLY** as treasurer. Other officers remaining.

The balance sheet will be distributed separately - possibly next month as there is little time to print it this month but basically, we again showed a profit as a result of which, the subs remain unchanged though in the event that it was necessary to farm the printing of Keynote out to a commercial printer, this would need to be reviewed. It was also pointed out that in the case of DX members, it was only after a second year of membership that we could break even financially. **G0FRL** pointed out that due to the costs involved, it was necessary to bring the Century award into line with other awards with a charge of £2.00 (\$5.00 US).

The QSL bureau came in for some very favourable comments received by Bob.

It was noted that a significant number of members were now accepting Keynote via e-mail which contributed to the positive balance I was asked to encourage others to consider this option.

## EW MEMBERS

7771	IK8URG Giuseppe
7772	GW4AZI Keith
7773	MW0CXP Bill
7774	M5COL Colin
7775	HL1IWD Lee
7776	F5SJB Dom
7779	DK8LS Steve
7780	IZ5BTH Manrico
7781	G0GQX Mel
7782	G2HDF CLUB
7783	MW0BXJ Tony
7784	M0CTL Steve
7785	9A3SM Mato

7777 and 7778 are of course club stns out of sequence.

## E-MAIL VIA CW

**M0BLV** sent me a small .MID file some time ago which I was too busy to look into so remained unattended until last week when I spotted it ly-

ing in the dowload folder. I played it through and found that it was compiled from a small .exe file available for free download <www.myhost.com/rdey/robsmidi.htm>. At present there are some restrictions and the resultant .MID file can only be read at the speed that it was encoded at (optional from a DOS type menu). The audio output was a little below that which was set by Windows but it makes good use of the sound board.

This program creates a Morse code standard MIDI file (SMF) from ASCII text. With it, you can create MIDI files that send Morse code, by simply typing your messages, or importing ASCII text files.

You can save your CW MIDI file as a general MIDI file (\*.MID) or as a RIFF MIDI (RMID) file (\*.RMI).

This simple program is a "must have" utility for any Amateur Radio operator. Use it to send "E-Morse" messages, by E-mailing \*.MID or \*.RMI files to your "Ham" friends, create code-practice files, or create a CW station ID'er.

Currently, the audio frequency (AF) tone is a 740 Hz squarewave.

and the program recognizes 75 different ASCII characters during the Morse code conversion process.

Up to 6,325 characters can be sent from a single file (more than 4 hours of Morse code at 5 WPM, or 1 hour at 18 WPM in a file that is about 250KB in size).

Although this is a DOS-based program, it also runs great from within Microsoft Windows.

Future versions of this program may include such options as: Farnsworth (character spacing), QRN, QRM, QSB, QRI, key clicks, an adjustable audio frequency (tone), and the ability to encode the original ASCII text within the CW MIDI file. A future program called CWREAD.EXE may be created to decode the original ASCII text from (encoded) CW MIDI files, so that you can see and print out the answers from a code-practice file. Also, The code speed setting in WPM may be included within the CW MIDI file. A Microsoft Windows version of CW MIDI may appear soon!

\* Contact: Rob L. Dey KA2BEO P.O. Box 1849, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742-1849 USA.

E-mail: <rdey@myhost.com> or Web site URL: <http://www.myhost.com/rdey>

## 40M QRM

Have had several references to the awful racket to be found on 40m. It is very strong, wide band and exhibits changes in frequency. It turns out to be due to a couple of middle east countries who have been at each others throats for decades - Iran and Iraq. There is no diplomatic agreement in either of these two countries (I can transmit wherever I choose) and it seems that Iran is attempting to jam with a not insignificant amount of power, an Iraqi broadcast station pumping propaganda to the Iraqi people. There is seemingly nothing that can be done about this which is rather a sad reflection upon the state of international cooperation. Taiwan I learn activated a broadcast station on 40m and within days of receiving objections, removed it so it would seem that the world is split into two camps - those who will and those who will not respond to international diplomacy! I have several sources for this info including the Northants ARS and G3IUC.

## FINALE

Sorry to be adrift again folks. Each month seems to find more problems but hope things level out soon as the chores are even keeping me off the bands. In the meantime, we have some gorgeous weather to compensate for a lousy winter and F&M.

73/88 es stay sober

Geo

FISTS CW CLUB, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

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**YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE IS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL**  
in the format of year/month/day

*Are YOU due to renew your subs??*

## Upcoming Events:

### FISTS Summer Sprint

1700 UTC to 2100 UTC, second Saturday in July

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